March 7, 2005

Dear Friends,

We believe, as I'm sure you do too, that more needs to be done to promote nonviolent action, and to support important efforts against war, militarism, the death penalty and other forms of injustice. The Muste Institute is gearing up for this challenge with new outreach and educational materials, including an improved website, to promote our literature and grant programs.

Meanwhile, we have a great batch of proposals for our April grant cycle—for actions at nuclear weapons plants on the 60th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, efforts to educate youth about alternatives to military service, and other worthy projects. We'd love to support them all. But the past year has been a difficult one for fundraising, so we need your help.

To those of you who have already given to the Institute in recent months, we thank you—and we ask you, if possible, to give again. For those who haven't contributed lately, this is a crucial time to resume your support. If we can raise $20,000 by April 15, we'll be able to increase our grant making this year and pay for expanded outreach. (As always, your contribution is tax-deductible. And if you find yourself paying less in taxes this year, please consider turning your savings into a gift for nonviolence and anti-war efforts.)

We're also going to need volunteers to help with outreach, literature distribution and other projects. Please get in touch — we're looking forward to working with you.

In Peace,

Murray Rosenblith

Murray Rosenblith
Executive Director

MUSTE NOTES
News from the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

VOL. 12, NUMBER 3 SPRING 2005

Grantee Profile:
Convention Builds Anti-Death Penalty Movement

The Muste Institute made a $2,000 grant in June 2004 to Campaign Against the Death Penalty (CEDP) for their national convention, "We CAN End the Death Penalty," held in Chicago in November 2004. Our grant went toward expenses of promoting the conference and travel subsidies for former death row prisoners and their families to attend. We also granted $2,000 to CEDP in 2001 for town hall meetings against the death penalty. This article was originally part of a report-back on the 2004 conference by CEDP national director Marlene Martin. For more information, including transcripts of speeches from the convention, see CEDP's website at http://nodeathpenalty.org

I always wonder as the convention approaches if this year's will be as good as the last. There is no doubt about it—this year's convention did hit a new high. It was FANTASTIC!! While the number of people attending was relatively the same as last year, there was a sense of seriousness about our work and a higher level of discussion.

Having the Ryan Matthews family kick off the convention put the weekend in the right context—we face challenges, but we can win. Ryan Matthews was finally freed in 2004 after eight years behind bars–five of them on death row–for a murder he did not commit. It was only a year ago that we met Ryan's sister Monique and his mother Pauline. At our convention last year, they introduced their struggle to free Ryan to our group—and we made it our struggle. It was incredibly powerful to see them again in the front of the room, this time with Ryan, now free, and to hear Monique's message that they will continue to fight until the death penalty is stopped once and for all.

PHOTO BY ERIC RUDER

Former Louisiana death row prisoner Ryan Matthews, freed last year, at the Campaign to End the Death Penalty convention in Chicago with his sister Monique, left, and mother Pauline, right.

As always, hearing from former prisoners and family members was the most powerful aspect of the convention. One panel titled "Dead Men Walking, Talking and Fighting Back" featured Madison Hobley, who spent 16 years on death row before he was pardoned by former

continued on page 2

Instituto Conmemorativo de A. J. Muste
SERIE DE ENSAYOS
No. 13
MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr.
1. La Fuerza de Amar
2. Carta desde la Cárcel de Birmingham
3. Declaración de Independencia de la Guerra en Vietnam

New! The Spanish-language edition of our best-selling Martin Luther King pamphlet now has all three of the writings included in the English-language edition: Loving Your Enemies, Letter from a Birmingham Jail, and Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam. The earlier edition of the pamphlet included only the first two. The third piece, King's famous anti-war speech at Riverside Church a year before his death, is now available for the first time in Spanish translation in this Muste Institute publication. See the back page for ordering info.

Anti-Death Penalty Movement

continued from page 1

Illinois Gov. George Ryan in January 2003; and Shujaa Graham, who survived 11 years on California's death row and four trials before he was found innocent of the charge of killing a correctional officer, a crime he was framed for. "The coming together of people, united in a common cause, will be able to overthrow capital punishment," Shujaa told us.

We were proud to introduce for the first time to our group Billy Moore, who was paroled in 1991 after spending almost 17 years on Georgia's death row. Billy told people his story and implored the audience to consider the "guilty" in our fight to get rid of the death penalty. "Everyone is not the worst thing that they've ever done," he reminded us.

PHOTO BY CALIFORNIA CEDP

At a Sunday morning session of the convention, activists spoke about the work being done by CEDP's local chapters, such as an October 2003 moratorium march in Austin, Texas (above) and a February 2004 demonstration outside California's San Quentin prison (right) in support of Kevin Cooper, on the night his execution was stopped.

At the end of a lively debate, a majority of delegates passed the following resolution: "We do not advocate life without the possibility of parole as an alternative sentence to the death penalty." The vote was not unanimous, and the debate sparked questions about crime itself, the role of punishment in society, the question of rehabilitation and prison, and what position if any an organization like ours should take on such an issue.

However, the emphasis of the weekend was not on this debate, but on building our struggle, our group and our chapters. In a sense, the convention was a "family reunion"—which brought together many former death row prisoners and family members who had gathered at previous conventions. For the newest person to the most seasoned activist, the convention was inspiring, encouraging and energizing. It infused us with a sense of purpose for our work in the coming year.

—Marlene Martin
CEDP National Director,

PHOTO BY CARL VILLARREAL

Other anti-death penalty projects supported recently by the Muste Institute:

Lioness Media Arts: $1,000 in September 2004 for "Race to Execution," a documentary about racial discrimination and the death penalty. Info: RachelVL@aol.com; www.Lionessmedia.com/r2e.html

Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty: $1,500 in April 2004 for rural organizing. Info: 402-477-7787; nadp@inebraska.com; http://nadp.inetnebr.com

Big Mouth Productions: $1,500 in December 2003 for anti-death penalty outreach around the documentary film Deadline. The film aired on NBC's Dateline last July and is now available on DVD. Info: 646-230-6228; http://deadlinethemovie.com

Pennsylvania Abolitionists United Against the Death Penalty: $1,000 in December 2002 for a statewide moratorium campaign. Info: 214-724-6120; pauadp@aol.com; www.pa-abolitionists.org/join.html

New Yorkers Against The Death Penalty: $1,000 in April 2002 for a campaign for a New York City Council moratorium resolution. Phone 888-224-6579, 518-453-6797; email info@nyadp.org;website www.nyadp.org

New Jerseyans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (formerly New Jerseyans for a Death Penalty Moratorium): $2,000 in February 2002 for moratorium organizing materials. Info: 856-854-3182; pr@njadp.org; www.njadp.org

Colombian Activist Murdered

The Muste Institute is saddened by the Feb. 21 murder of activist Luis Eduardo Guerra by Colombian soldiers. Guerra was a founder and prominent leader of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó who had traveled several times to the US and Europe to speak about human rights. He was killed along with his girlfriend and 11-year old son in the nearby community of Mulatos. Also murdered were a peace leader from Mulatos, his companion and their two children, ages six and two. The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, founded in 1997, rejects the presence of all armed groups. Several Muste Institute grantees had close relationships with Guerra and with the Peace Community: the Colombia Support Network of Madison, Wisconsin, which we funded in 1994; Fellowship of Reconciliation Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean, a 2002 grantee, whose volunteer wrote an article about the Peace Community for the Fall 2002 issue of *Muste Notes*; and Peace Brigades International (PBI), which we supported last year. For more information see:
www.colombiasupport.net
www.soawatch.org;
www.peacebrigades.org.

PHOTO BY LINDA PANETTA

Luis Eduardo Guerra speaking at a November 2002 rally in Fort Benning, Georgia, demanding closure of the US military's School of the Americas (SOA). The annual rally is organized by SOA Watch, now a Muste Institute sponsoree.

New Grants, December 2004

COMUNICADORES POPULARES POR LA AUTONOMIA

San Cristóbal, Mexico: $1,500

COMPPA, formed in 2003, provides equipment and training in radio, video, popular communications, journalism and web-based media skills to grassroots organizations in Mexico and Central America. This grant goes for a gender and popular communication training program in coordination with the Union of Indigenous Communities of the Northern Zone of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (UCIZONI) in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, and the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH).

EDUCATION FOR PEACE IN IRAQ CENTER

Washington, DC: $2,000

Founded in 1998, EPIC informs and mobilizes the US public, media and policymakers around political, economic and human rights conditions in Iraq. This grant goes for the "Act Against Torture" email campaign and website action page, seeking to build public pressure toward accountability and justice around the Abu Ghraib torture scandal and human rights in Iraq.

JK EDUCATION COUNCIL

Orissa State, India: $2,000

JK Education Council is a grassroots women's organization formed in 1980 to carry out work for human rights and against race, gender and caste discrimination in the rural districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Dhenkanal in India's Orissa state. The group has 430 women members. This grant goes for training programs to prepare promoters of peace and human rights for women and to develop skills of existing nonviolence trainers in the three districts.

PHILADELPHIA SUSTAIN

Philadelphia, PA: $1,500

This Philadelphia group, formed in March 2003, belongs to a network of local chapters of Stop U.S. Tax-funded Aid to Israel Now (SUSTAIN), which works to halt U.S. support for the occupation of Palestine. Our grant goes for advertising and outreach for Philadelphia's first Palestine Film Festival, a free, week-long celebration of Palestinian culture, society and politics to be held May 15-22, 2005, in partnership with a wide range of religious, peace, solidarity and arts groups. The festival will include films, performances, lectures and community dialogues. For details, see the festival website at philadelphiapalestinefilmfestival.org.

SEEDS FOR CHANGE NETWORK

Oxford, England: $1,000

Seeds for Change is a network of nonviolent, radical trainers who have worked on key environmental, peace and social justice campaigns in the United Kingdom over the past 15 years. This grant goes to train 36 experienced nonviolent activists from throughout the UK to become nonviolent direct action trainers to prepare for protests at a summit of the "G8" nations scheduled for July 2005 in Scotland.

SERPAJ-ECUADOR

Quito, Ecuador: $7,500 (SFE)

Servicio Paz y Justicia (SERPAJ), the Service for Peace and Justice, is a network of Latin American nonviolence groups founded in 1974 which has national affiliates throughout the region. This grant from our donor-advised Sheilah's Fund East goes for the SERPAY–Ecuador's Peace Education Institute, building nonviolence and a culture of peace and human rights.

SERPAJ-PARAGUAY

Asunción, Paraguay: $7,500 (SFE)

This Sheilah's Fund East grant goes toward completion of the Casa de la Paz community peace center in Asunción, which will serve as home for SERPAJ Paraguay and as a base for other peace and justice efforts.

SOUTH TEXANS OPPOSING PRIVATE PRISONS

Austin, TX: $2,000

The STOPP Coalition was formed in opposition to plans for a 2,800-bed privately-operated "superjail" in Laredo, Texas, where the US Marshals Service seeks to hold immigrant detainees. This grant goes for the coalition's efforts to use public education, media work and strategic advocacy to halt construction of the prison.

The A.J. Muste Memorial Institute makes small grants to groups engaged in nonviolent action and education for social justice. Our next deadlines for proposals are April 29 and July 22, 2005. Guidelines are on our website at www.ajmuste.org.

If you are making up your will, we hope you will consider leaving a bequest to the Muste Institute to ensure the continuation of our work in the future. A suggested simple wording to use in making bequests is: "I bequeath dollars ($) or ____ percent of my estate to the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute, Inc., a charitable, not-for-profit organization located at 339 Lafayette Street, New York, New York, 10012, to be used for its general purposes." To discuss other types of bequests, such as those directed toward a specific purpose, please contact our office.

MUSTE QUOTES

"The point is that Western imperialism as a whole, whether in its totalitarian or its 'democratic' manifestations, is no longer able to serve the cause of human progress. Its moral prestige has vanished."

(from Where Are We Going? 1941)

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339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012
phone (212) 533-4335 fax (212) 228-6193
e-mail: info@ajmuste.org
web site: www.ajmuste.org

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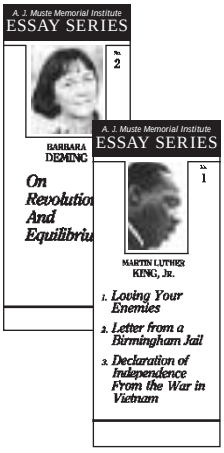


#1: Martin Luther King, Jr. – America's leading apostle of human dignity – *Loving Your Enemies*; *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*; *Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam.* Also available in Spanish-see #13

qty: _____

#2: Barbara Deming – the feminist connection to nonviolence – *On Revolution and Equilibrium*

qty: _____

#3: Henry David Thoreau – the original architect of resistance – *On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*

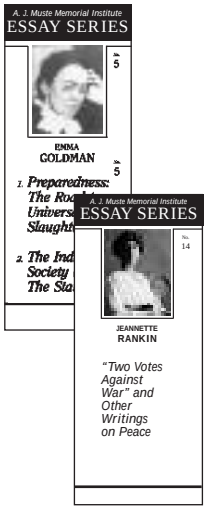
qty: _____

#4: Jessie Wallace Hughan – suffragist, peace activist, founder of the War Resisters League – *Pacifism and Invasion*; *On Duelling*

qty: _____

#5: Emma Goldman – fiery orator, anarchist, agitator for peace and liberation – *Preparedness: The Road to Universal Slaughter*; *The Individual, Society and the State*

qty: _____



#6: Rosa Luxemburg – courageous leader of Germany's democratic socialist movement – *Prison Letters*

qty: _____

#7: A. J. Muste – foremost 20th Century Pacifist theoretician and activist, minister, socialist – *Who Has the Spiritual Atom Bomb?*

qty: _____

#8: *On Wars of Liberation* – three essays on pacifist responses to armed freedom struggles, including analysis of Gandhi's position

qty: _____

#9: Aldous Huxley – Twentieth Century visionary and prolific writer – *Science, Liberty and Peace*

qty: _____

#10: Paul Goodman – pacifist, anarchist, activist – *The Morality of Scientific Technology*; *The Psychology of Being Powerless*

qty: _____

#11: *Some Writings on War Tax Resistance* – thoughts, poems, tales from resisters, including Juanita Nelson, Allen Ginsberg and Pete Seeger

qty: _____

#12: Sidney Lens – peace and labor activist, socialist, occasional political candidate – six articles spanning three decades on the state of the U.S. labor movement

qty: _____

#13: (Spanish) Martin Luther King, Jr. – Spanish language translation of *Loving Your Enemies*, *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* and *Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam*.

qty: _____

#14: Jeannette Rankin – first woman in Congress, suffragist, pacifist – *"Two Votes Against War" and Other Writings on Peace*

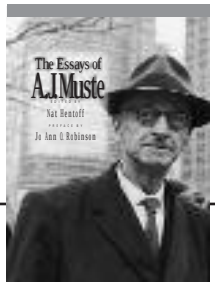
qty: _____

#15: David McReynolds – longtime activist with the War Resisters League, Socialist Party presidential candidate – *A Philosophy of Nonviolence*

qty: _____

Peace Agitator: The Story of A.J. Muste, by Nat Hentoff
A biography, with many photos, profiling the 'grandfather' of the U.S. peace movement-minister, labor activist, pacifist and resister. Introduction by Larry Gara.

qty: _____



The Essays of A.J. Muste

Edited by Nat Hentoff, preface by Jo Ann O. Robinson. Originally issued in 1967, this new edition includes Muste's "Notes for an Autobiography," plus essays on pacifism, civil rights, trade unionism and foreign policy, written between 1905 and 1966. qty: _____

Wear Your Peace Shirt
Muste Institute t-shirts are black cotton with a four-color geometric design and the words: *"There is no way to peace, peace is the way - A.J. Muste"* Available in large and extra large (please specify) for $15 each.
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